

MEDIA RELEASE

Green Fund equals Green Learning

Hydrobiology is not just an environmental consulting company; it also promotes healthy lifestyles with its employees through what they call a *Green Fund*. The *Green Fund* is a way of banking their employees' environmental actions (walking or riding to work and other sustainable practices) in exchange for a dollar amount that is put towards further environmental causes.

That cause, this round, is Mt Crosby State School's Science in Action Project: Erosion. The money from Hydrobiology's *Green Fund* is contributing towards a student project to improve a current area of erosion on the school grounds. As part of the Year 4 Earth Science unit, students investigate how natural and human processes change the earth's surface and design. They will then investigate solutions and design and implement a method to prevent further erosion. The project will provide safe paths for parents, children and staff, reclaim the area for student and community use with seating, and provide a native habitat within the school.

Presenting the cheque for \$985 to Mt Crosby State School is Dustin Hobbs, a professional scientist and project manager with Hydrobiology. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the school, is the very excited Alison Gillespie, a dynamic parent volunteer and environmental advocate at the school along with Principal, Sue Phillips, and some of the year 4 students who will be participating in the project.

This project will benefit both the school and the community. Gillespie states, 'The project will provide a focal point for parents, local community members, staff and students to collaborate on solving an immediate environmental problem. We have found

that giving student's ownership of projects, encourages environmental awareness and empowers them to recognise that as citizens they have the ability to observe, record and study an issue and then take action to address it. They learn that they can make a difference in their local community.'

Education Manager for Keep Queensland Beautiful, Tarra Martel, said Mt Crosby State School's project is one that could be duplicated by other schools with similar issues. Projects such as these at schools are an excellent indicator that they are finding ways to teach sustainable education. Tarra Martel manages the Cleaner Greener Schools Initiative at Keep Queensland Beautiful which gives credit to schools for actions such as this through a 1-5 Star Accreditation Rating in Litter, Waste and Other Sustainable Practices.

"It is also inspiring to see companies making environmentally sustainable commitments such as the *Green Fund* that Hydrobiology has in place for its employees to make a difference. It would be great to see more companies get involved with more environmental incentives like this one, even at a small level," Martel said. The next round of Hydrobiology's Green Fund Grants will open soon.

http://www.keepqueenslandbeautiful.org.au/programs/cleaner_greener_schools/info

MEDIA CONTACT

Tarra Martel, Education Manager
Keep Queensland Beautiful
M: 0422 952 605
tmartel@keepqueenslandbeautiful.org.au